

---

# Office of Public Instruction



## Accreditation Division



The Accreditation Division assists, reviews, and monitors 859 K-12 schools and eight teacher education programs at Montana's postsecondary institutions for compliance with school accreditation standards and other rules. The division assists schools, districts, and teacher education programs to align standards, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development. This division's functions include:

- 🍏 Implements accreditation standards adopted and required by the Board of Public Education;
- 🍏 Processes and evaluates the annual accreditation status of all 859 Montana schools;
- 🍏 Operates the OPI's electronic Annual Data Collection system to review and recommend accreditation status for all schools;
- 🍏 Reports annually on the accreditation status of all schools to the Board of Public Education, the public, and the news media;
- 🍏 Reviews and approves improvement plans for schools not meeting state accreditation standards (in 2003-04, 151 schools or 17%);
- 🍏 Conducts on-site middle school reviews to determine accreditation recommendations to the Board of Public Education;
- 🍏 Provides regional assistance in the development and monitoring the effectiveness of the Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan (5YCEP) required of all school districts by the Board of Public Education;
- 🍏 Reviews and recommends the Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards for all educator learning programs at Montana colleges and universities; conducts on-site teacher education unit reviews to determine approval recommendations to the Board of Public Education;
- 🍏 Implements, monitors and evaluates the Small Schools Adequate Yearly Progress process for 502 schools and districts; and
- 🍏 Completes the Montana State Report Card on Quality of Teacher Preparation as required by the U.S. Department of Education ESEA Higher Education Act, Title II.



**Linda McCulloch, Superintendent**

Montana Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, Montana 59620-2501  
[www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov)